

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and in light of the following remarks and discussion.

Claims 29, 30, 33-46, 48-54, 56, 57 and 59-69, 73-85 and 88-98 are pending in the application. Claims 59, 63, 67, 79-82, 84 and 90 are amended, claims 32, 58, 70-72, 86 and 87 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 91-98 are added by way of the present amendment. Support for the changes to the claims and the new claims is self-evident from the originally filed disclosure, including the original claims, and therefore no new matter is added.

Initially, Applicants express thanks for the Examiner's allowance of claims 29, 30, 32-46, 48-54, 56-69, 73-85, 88 and 89. Although claims 32 and 58 are canceled, and claim 82 is amended, as discussed below, it is submitted that claims 29, 30, 33-46, 48-54, 56, 57, 59-69, 73-85, 88 and 89 remain allowable.

Applicants further express thanks for the Examiner's indication that claim 90 recites allowable subject matter, such that the objected to claim will be allowed when rewritten in independent form. In response, claim 90 is amended to recite features of independent claim 70. In accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, the allowance of claim 90 is requested.

In the Office Action claims 32, 58 and 82 are objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) as failing to further limit the claims. In response, claims 32 and 58 are canceled. Claim 82 is amended to further limit the claims. It is therefore requested that this objection to the claims be withdrawn.

Claims 79-81, 84 and 86 are objected to because of informalities. In response claim 86 is canceled, and the remaining claims are amended to limit the parent claims. It is therefore requested that this objection to the claims be withdrawn.

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Claims 70-72, 86 and 87 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Publication No. 03-267965 to Yoshino et al. (Yoshino). It is submitted that the rejection is mooted by the cancellation of the claims.

Added claims 91-98 are patentable for at least the reasons the independent claims from which they depend are patentable.

It is noted that the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed on November 14, 2005, is not yet acknowledged. It is requested that the Examiner provide, with the next Patent Office communication, an initialed, signed and dated copy of the List of References Cited by Applicant evidencing consideration of the patents and printed publications listed thereon.

Consequently, for the reasons discussed in detail above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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